

PLAIN TALKS

APRIL
1981



THE COVER

Mary Jordan tends one of the many plants featured in or around her gazebo.

The Beaumont employee says gardening is her favorite pastime, especially cultivating tulips. This year's dry January limited the number of tulip blooms in her yard, however.

A longtime GSU employee, Mrs. Jordan makes her home about three miles north of Silsbee.

A related story appears on page 17 of this issue of *Plain Talks*.

Editor
Liberty Gazette
Liberty, Texas

I want to thank the man from Gulf States Utilities who came out here in 18-degree weather at 2 a.m. to get our electricity going again. I know they have a job to do, but they surely deserve a hearty "thank you!"

Mrs. A. Glass
Dayton

Editor's Note: The serviceman mentioned was Edward R. Barton.

Harriet Babin
Gulf States Utilities
Baton Rouge, La.
Dear Miss Babin:

I am writing you this letter to express my deep appreciation to Gulf States Utilities for the quality, the professionalism and the dedication of your personnel.

I am a businessman from Florida interested in making a contribution toward solving the energy crisis. Having read about your Energy Store located in Baton Rouge, I called and had the privilege of being helped by Ms. Shivaun Tessier, one of your consumer service representatives.

Ms. Tessier was so knowledgeable and so helpful in referring me to other business people working on energy conservation that I decided it was worth driving over

1,300 miles round trip to Baton Rouge to gather more information.

My trip was hugely successful in accomplishing its purpose. Not only did Ms. Tessier freely share her broad energy conservation knowledge with me, but she also helped me benefit from the experience of some of her colleagues — Ms. Jamie Watkins, Mrs. Karen Yates and Ms. Pris Gallagher, to whom I would also like to express my sincere gratitude.

As if this was not enough, I could hardly believe what happened next. We were unable to complete the information exchange in the two hours or so that were left on the afternoon of my arrival in Baton Rouge, so Ms. Tessier agreed to meet me at the Energy Store the following morning. Although she was sick with the flu and obviously belonged at home and in bed, she showed up anyway. This lovely young lady told me that I had driven so far for that information, she felt responsible for making sure she had done all that was possible to help me.

I may not be in your customer service territory, but if I am successful in my efforts to open an energy conservation-related business, the efforts of Ms. Tessier and her colleagues mentioned above will certainly be responsible for a significant energy conservation effort. That effort, along with thousands of others like it, will someday help our country toward energy independence.

I wish to congratulate you, Miss Babin, if you are responsible for the acquisition and training of people of Ms. Tessier's caliber. As I select my own employees, I hope I can do half as well. Sincerely,

J. P. Deschenes
San Mateo, Florida

PLAIN TALKS

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Employees who change residences or offices should fill out company mailing-address-change forms (GSU0012-00-79) and return them to the mailroom in the Wilson Building. GSU publications, departmental mailings and other company information are not automatically forwarded; addresses must be corrected when employees move.

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Company honors 500,000th customer

On Friday, Feb. 6, the company commemorated gaining its 500,000th customer.

Actually, Mr. and Mrs. John Turner of 1715 Bryant Way in Beaumont had signed up to become Gulf States' customers in late December. Ceremonies were delayed, however, until the couple moved into their new home.

To mark the event, the company presented the Turners with a heat pump water heater, which cools the air and also heats water in the home.

Students try saving energy

A group of fourth-graders at Roy Guess Elementary School near Beaumont decided recently to try roughing it without electricity — an experiment their teacher hoped would show them how important electricity has become to modern world.

Martha Vanover, their teacher, told *Plain Talks* her most important goal in getting the youngsters to do without electricity was to reinforce the importance of energy conservation.

Throughout the day of Wednesday, April 8, the 130 children who at one time or another have classes with Mrs. Vanover trooped into an unlighted schoolroom, ate sandwiches rather than hot lunches and planned activities that could be done without electricity. About 20 of the children carried out the "no electricity" project at their homes that morning and night, too.

Mrs. Vanover, who also gave up electrical appliances at home, confessed that it had been somewhat difficult to apply makeup by the light filtering in through a window.

Participating youngsters reported that their parents had been pleased with their efforts to con-

serve and agreed to serve foods that would not need cooking and plan family activities that would not require electricity. "They thought of other things to do besides watch television and listen to the radio," Mrs. Vanover reported.



Mrs. Vanover shows students (left to right) Laura Vanecek, Stephanie Raska, Willie Nelson and Scott Howard a My Weekly Reader article about a similar experiment.

Mrs. Vanover said the children decided to carry out the experiment after reading in *My Weekly Reader* about two small towns that spend a whole week "making do," including riding bicycles and walking to work and to school. That was easier to do in a small town that did not require traveling great distances, she said, adding the Beaumont children tried to devise an experiment that could be carried out in a more metropolitan area.

Thrift Plan investments given

Investments made by the Thrift Plan trustee during March 1981 from February 1981 employee deductions and company contributions purchased 18,152 shares of common stock.

The total cost was \$208,748 at an average cost per share of \$11.50.

The trustee also deposited \$151,096.63 in savings at First Security Bank of Beaumont and \$5,093.38 in the guaranteed fixed income fund with the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Nuclear experts give testimony

Nuclear experts who feel nuclear generation of electricity is both safe and sensible have been among those who have testified before a special Louisiana legislative study committee over the past couple of years. A report is expected from the committee this spring.

Created a couple of years ago, the Joint Natural Resources Committee on Nuclear Energy Studies is made up of the members of both the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees and is jointly chaired by Rep. Arthur W. Sour Jr. and Sen. Samuel B. Nunez Jr.

The committee has been questioning persons with nuclear expertise, with the assistance of three Louisiana State University professors who are also experts in the field. The trio is expected to make its report to the committee shortly after a May 14 session of the committee.

GSU's Earl Broussard, manager-governmental affairs/Louisiana, says he feels certain the report will be favorable for nuclear — meaning it will be favorable for Gulf States and Louisiana Power and Light, both of which have nuclear plants under construction. However, Broussard adds that he believes the joint committee may continue to function even after a report is issued.

In late March, testimony was heard from several nuclear experts, including B. Jim Porter, assistant secretary of the Louisiana Office of Environmental Affairs.

Also testifying, among others, were Edward J. Steimel, president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), and Carl Toldstein, assistant vice president of public affairs and information programs for the Atomic Industrial Forum.

Q&A

Max Smith discusses Management Reporting System

Editor's Note: Keeping track of the company's Management Reporting System (MRS) is one of Max Smith's main responsibilities as superintendent-transportation and maintenance. According to Smith, the company took the first step toward developing a system in 1978, when it hired United Research Company (URC) to conduct a company-wide survey to determine whether a need for such a system existed. The firm was later hired to carry out a pilot program for Transmission and Distribution Operations in the Beaumont Division and was expanded to the remaining four divisions in 1979. Gulf States took over the reporting system in early 1980, naming it the Management Reporting System.

PT: Why was the MRS implemented?

Smith: It was formed with three principal objectives — to improve manpower planning, workload management and customer service. As such, it was part of a company-wide effort to improve customer service and to cope with the financial adversities of the late '70s and early '80s.

PT: Have we successfully attained those objectives?

Smith: MRS is an ongoing program — not one that will fulfill

a single purpose and then be concluded. However, so far, MRS has been quite successful in meeting the primary objectives. We have also seen a definite increase in performance that translates into dollar savings for the company.

PT: How does the system measure performance?

Smith: Performance is determined by the actual time in man-

hours it takes a crew to accomplish a job versus the established reasonable time expected to accomplish that job. A reasonable expectancy is the number of man-hours established to do a given job with average crew expertise, normal equipment in use and under normal working conditions.

PT: Approximately what percent performance increase



Smith discusses MRS

have you seen in the last six months and what is the dollar value?

Smith: Conservatively, I'd say performance has increased 2 percent in the last six months. That translates into about \$260,000 savings per year. I should also point out there is an equal savings brought about by a 1 percent improvement in crew utilization resulting in a combined annual savings of approximately \$520,000.

PT: What do you mean by utilization?

Smith: Utilization refers to the percent of time an individual or crew spends actually performing the departmental routine work assignments. It is affected by such things as absenteeism and lost time caused by rain, vehicle breakdown, lack of materials, wrong address, inadequate engineering and so on.

PT: Doesn't the program make employees feel as if they are being "shadowed?"

Smith: I really don't think they feel that way. As with any new program, some employees had reservations about MRS when it was fully implemented in March 1980, but I think most doubts have been eased as employees have seen tangible improvements resulting from the reporting system.

PT: Are individual employees within a crew swamped with paperwork relating to the system?

Smith: In most cases, a single daily report is prepared by each crew. The major portion of paper work is done by office personnel. There are office time requirements in this area. However, recent revisions have reduced the time requirement to some extent

and we are committed to the reduction of paper work where possible without sacrificing needed information.

PT: Do you foresee any improvements or changes to MRS?

Smith: We are studying the feasibility of adapting the system to computerization. Other major changes are not anticipated due to the stability of the system at this point, although minor adjustments will be made as the need dictates.

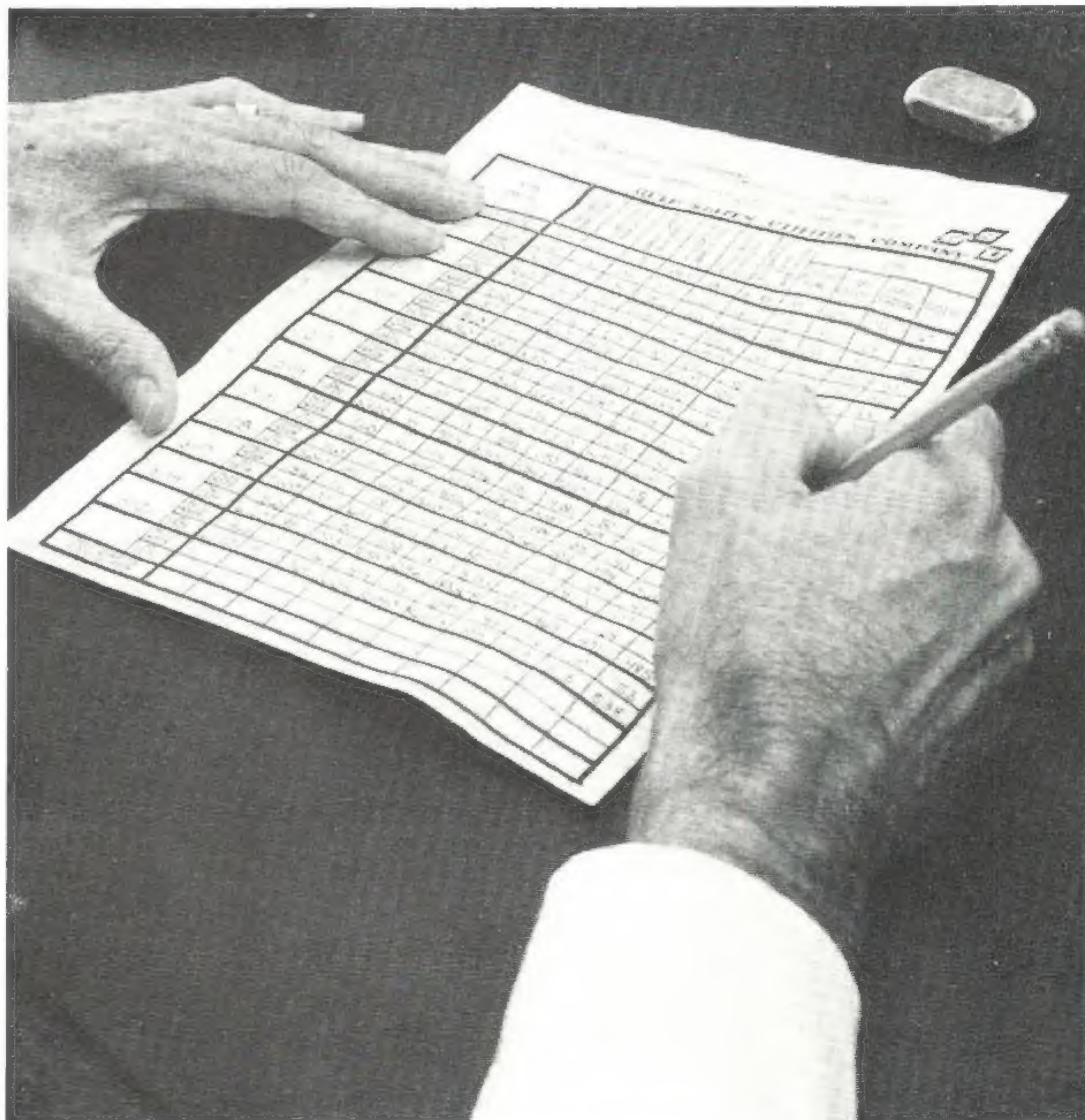
PT: Do you have any idea why MRS has been successful?

Smith: I think a large part of the success has resulted from the

positive attitude of the division coordinators, and division personnel in general. We have found without exception that the more emphasis that is placed on the system, the better the data we obtain, resulting in improved planning, scheduling and — ultimately — better service to our customers.

PT: Do you consult with division personnel when making changes in the system?

Smith: Yes. Their feedback is very important. There's nothing sacred about MRS. We can change it up to suit their needs, so long as it contains certain pertinent information.



All the numbers accumulated translate into how productivity is affected by work scheduling changes in crew size, crew experience, type equipment in use, work methods, lost time control, job assignments, absenteeism and other factors.

Wind Power at Blue Water

As part of its efforts to evaluate substitute energy sources, Gulf States has installed a 25-kilowatt wind generator on Bolivar Peninsula.

The 56-foot tall, dual-blade wind turbine was built by Jay Carter Enterprises Inc. of Burkburnett, Texas. The wind machine's fiberglass blades measure 32 feet from tip to tip.

Unlike the familiar derrick-shaped windmills, Carter's 440-volt machine has the blades mounted on a single pole. It is designed to produce 25,000 watts of electricity at wind speeds of 25 miles an hour.

According to Peter Broussard, special programs engineer for GSU, the windmill could fulfill the needs of an average residence without air conditioning at a wind speed of about 15 mph. If the air conditioning were going, too, it could fulfill the needs at 20 mph.

GSU will monitor the wind generator to gather data about wind speeds and direction, power output of the turbo-generator, amount of maintenance required and how corrosion affects the wind device's life expectancy.

"Wind is a substitute energy source worthy of investigation because it is renewable and minimally harmful to the environment, Broussard said. "Power from the wind is harnessed by rather simple and well-defined technology."

GSU's Blue Water Substation on the peninsula was chosen as the site for the wind turbine because of the wind speeds along the shore.

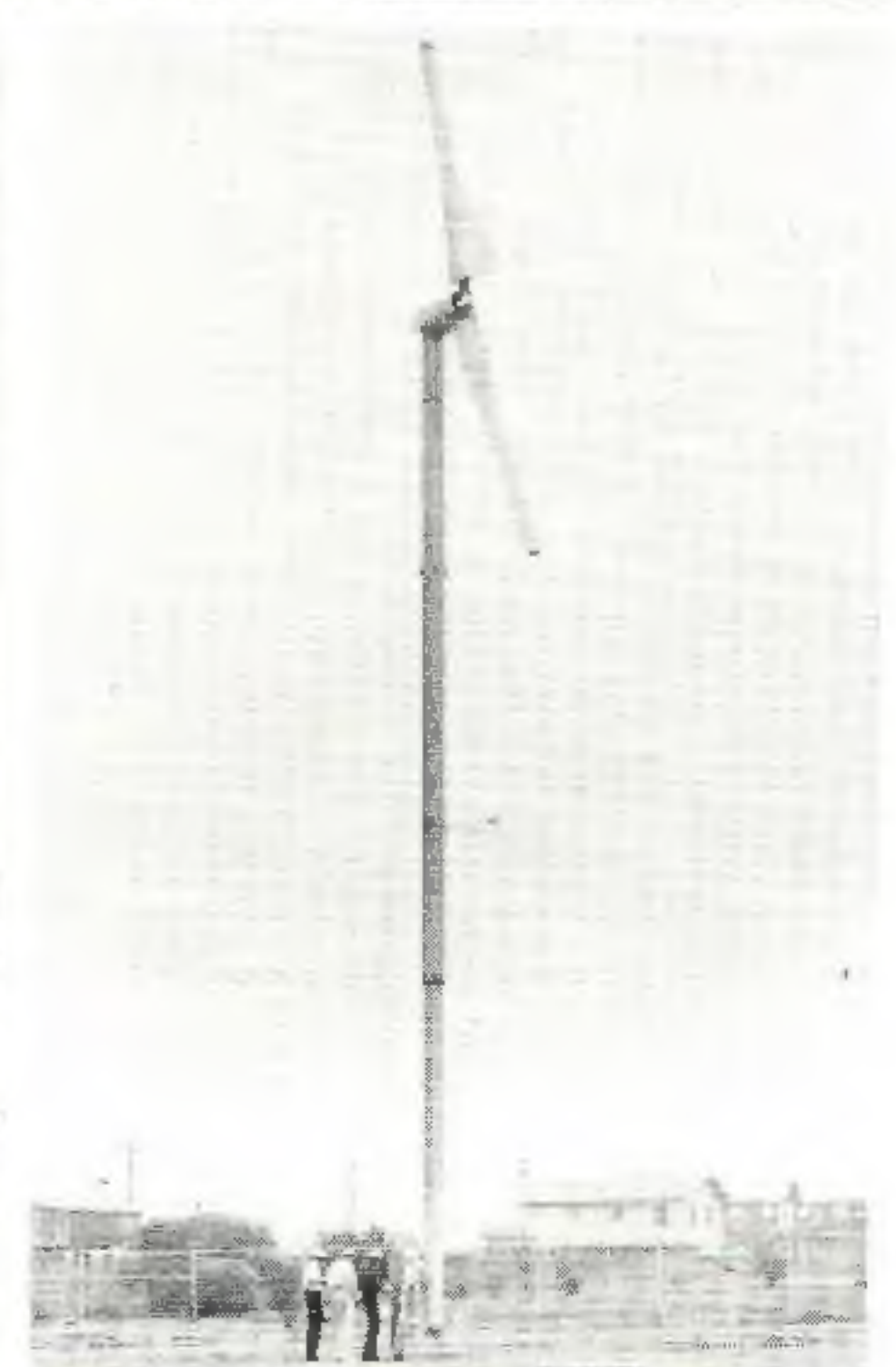
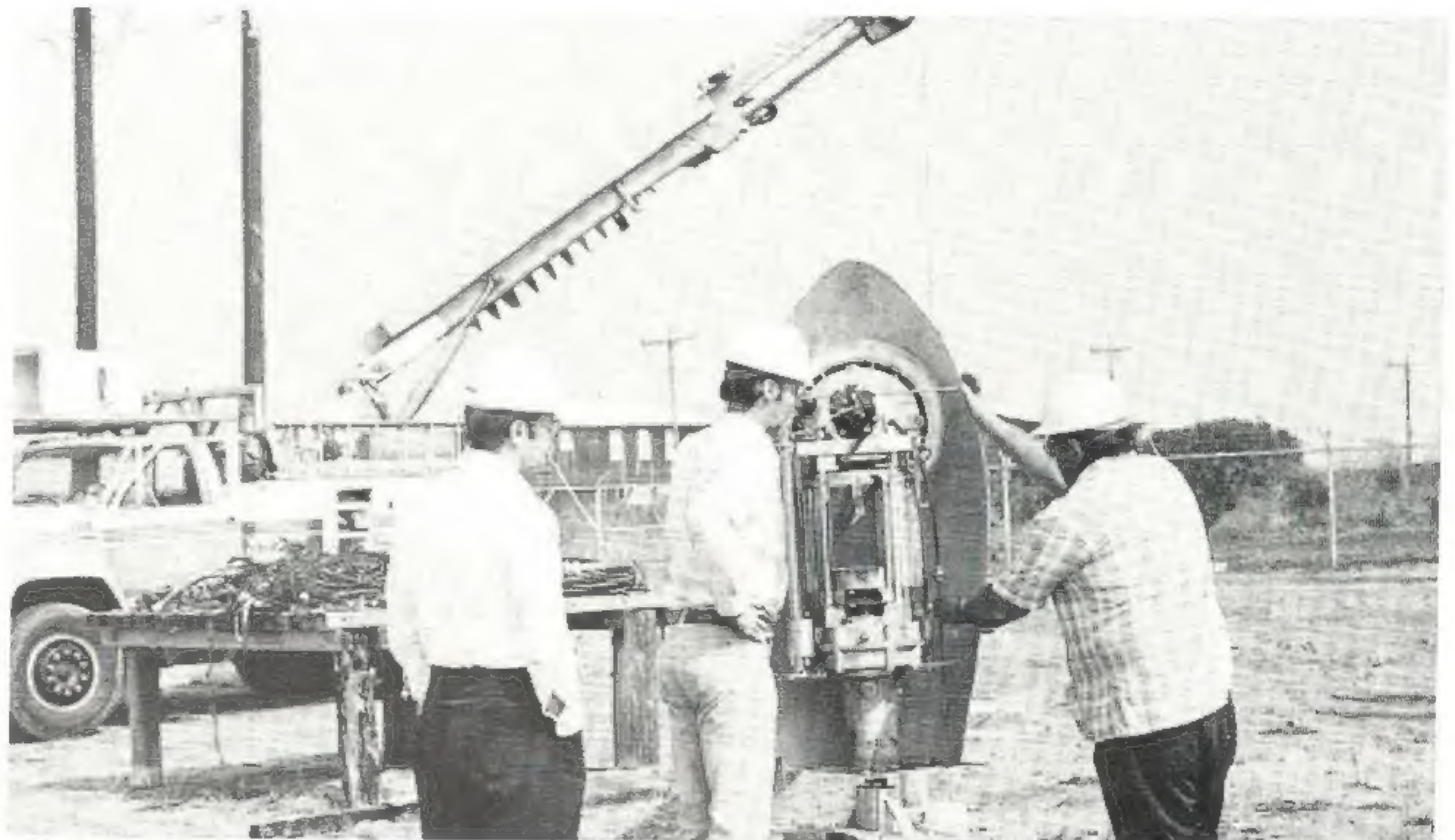
"Throughout the company's service area, the highest average wind speed occurs along the shores of the Gulf of Mexico. Blue Water Substation is a few

hundred feet from the shoreline," Broussard explained. He said the windmill's Gulf Coast location would offer optimal results for the study.

The wind machine is designed to withstand winds up to 125 mph. However, in extremely high winds, the machine will shut down automatically. Also, the windmill is hinged at the base and can be lowered for maintenance work

or in case of storm winds. A small winch will be used to raise and lower the entire pole, and a stand approximately three feet tall will support the windmill while it is lowered.

The electricity generated from the wind turbine will go into the GSU grid. The company will be considering the effects of grid tie-ins by small, privately-owned power generators.



A crew of GSUers began installing the wind machine on Thursday, March 26, and the unit was completely in place by the following day.

John Theriot: Too Busy to Sit Down

From his perspective of more than six years of retirement, John Theriot of Baton Rouge, offers a piece of advice for Gulf States employees who are approaching retirement.

"Have something to do before you retire. Don't sit down," he cautions, "or you won't last long."

Theriot and his wife of 40 years, Mary Ada, reveal that they "have plenty to do on our three acres here."

Although Theriot's Gulf States' career was spent as a serviceman in the Gas Department, he has always had a flair for carpentry. The diminutive Cajun made his home by combining two houses into one. He also built a hardware store and an apartment building on his property. Although he rents out both the store and the apartment, Theriot continues to maintain both buildings.

Since his retirement on Jan. 1, 1975, Theriot has put some

finishing touches on cabinets he had built inside his home several years earlier. Pointing out some mitered corners, Theriot comments, "I just like to do good carpentry work, so I take extra steps that some carpenters don't bother with." He claims he inherited his woodworking abilities. "My daddy was a person that could do just about anything he wanted to," he recalls, adding, "and I've always liked to work with wood."

At a time when many couples brush up their parenting skills for brief visits from grandchildren, the Theriots have a teenage daughter still living at home. Sixteen-year-old Mary Jo, a junior at Lee High School, is 12 years younger than the youngest of her three older brothers. Sons John Jr. and Tom live in Baton Rouge, while Ronnie lives in LaPlace. There are six grandchildren.

Theriot retired early because of health problems. Shortly after retirement, he underwent heart surgery, but now his wife says he seems to be "in excellent health."

According to Theriot, "It took about six to seven months for me to adjust to not going to work every day."

Now, a typical day's routine might involve alternating gardening and yardwork with carpentry. About one weekend out of four, he goes fishing at their camp. "I have plenty to do — keeping up boats, our camp on Grand Isle and this place," Theriot asserts. He and one of his cousins, he says, are able to handle just about any job that comes up. His wife describes him as a "self-made man" who even taught himself electrical wiring.

Although Theriot does not smoke, he concedes that acquaintances might not recognize him without the cigar he constantly chews on. He sometimes visits former co-workers on the job, but laments some of the inevitable changes that have occurred within the utility company that serves one of the fastest-growing parts of the country.

"When I first went to Gulf States, the company was a friendly, tight place," he points out. "Of course, the bigger you get, the fewer people you know. You still feel friendly around those people you know — it's just impossible to know everyone!"

The couple lives on Highland Road, just a stone's throw from their birthplaces. They belong to St. Jude's Catholic Church.



John Theriot works in his 70-foot by 100-foot garden.

Ethel Harvin describes cooking as her "therapy, my avocation."

But those around Mrs. Harvin may benefit from her therapeutic hobby as much as she does because the longtime educator still believes in being a good neighbor.

The recipes she offers "have been used many times to bring to convalescents," she reveals. Not only does she give thought to the nutritional value of the dishes, Mrs. Harvin also selects dishes for their festive appearance. She explains, "After a rather colorless span of hospital meals, these two appeal to most on-the-mend and mended people."

Mrs. Harvin is not an employee of Gulf States, but her son, Rick, is. Harvin is a communications representative with the Public Affairs Department in Beaumont.

His mother, who is nearing the end of her 24th year with the East Baton Rouge Parish school system, is presently a counselor for middle school students in grades six through eight. Before becoming a counselor nine years

Festive foods appeal to convalescents

ago, she taught English — a subject she describes as "that endangered species" — for 15 years.

The following two recipes are among her favorites for shut-ins.

Green Pea Salad

Two 8½-ounce cans early petit pois peas
4 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
4 green onions, sliced (optional)
4 stalks celery, chopped
2/3 cup mayonnaise
1 teaspoon lemon juice
Salt and pepper to taste
Lettuce leaves

Drain peas. Combine with remaining ingredients. Chill for at least one hour. Serve on lettuce leaves. Makes eight portions.

Mushroom Quiche

9-inch pastry shell
¼ pound fresh mushrooms, sliced
½ cup onion, chopped
3 tablespoons butter
4 eggs
1 tablespoon flour
⅛ teaspoon nutmeg
Dash cayenne
2 cups light cream
12 ounces Gruyere cheese, grated

Bake pastry shell for five minutes in 375 degree Fahrenheit oven to seal. Remove. Saute mushrooms and onions in butter. Combine eggs, flour, nutmeg, cayenne and cream. Add mushrooms, onions and Gruyere cheese. Pour mixture into prepared crust and bake at 375 degrees for 40 minutes. Serves eight.

Meet your correspondent: Joe Russian of Beaumont

Photography buff Joe Russian enjoys putting his hobby to work collecting pictures to go along with feature stories and Inside GSU items in *Plain Talks*.

Russian, who has been with Gulf States for five years, has been the *Plain Talks* correspondent for the main office for about a year. He is also chairman of the Brown Bag Lunch Bunch Committee, a group of Gulf Staters who arrange Monday noon-hour entertainment or information sessions for downtown employees.

Currently a senior engineering assistant in the Estimating Department, Russian reports that he has been a spare-time photographer for about 15 years.

He says his interest in photography began while he was in the U.S. Air Force, stationed at a Strategic Air Command base in North Dakota. He shoots about 500 pictures a year on his 35 mm Minolta 100 camera.

Russian, his wife Jolene and their two sons, 10-year-old Joseph and 9-year-old Chris, make their home in Beaumont. Both youngsters play soccer for the Spindletop Youth Soccer Association, for which the elder Russian coaches and umpires.

Although Russian admits fellow employees are pretty good about notifying him about birthday celebrations, baby showers and the like, he says he wishes more people would share ideas that

might be expanded into feature-length stories.

He can be reached at extension 3818 in the main office building.





Amelia Elementary School second-graders from Beaumont accepted the charge to open the time capsule in 10 years, when they are high school seniors. Joining the children were their school counselor, Ginger Ellis (far left) and their teacher, Mary Wingate (far right).



The system-wide winners were (left to right) Leslie Bodden, GSU contest, and Connie Corripio, public contest, both of Baton Rouge Division.

American Energy Week: Young People Learn About Energy



Port Arthur Division public contest winner Rhonda Busby accepts a certificate from Division Vice President Ted Meinscher.

Youngsters of all ages from throughout the service area participated in several American Energy Week activities sponsored by Gulf States during the week of March 15-21.

High school juniors and seniors participated in a company-sponsored essay contest and elementary and high school students took part in "time-capsule" ceremonies in the Beaumont and Lake Charles divisions.

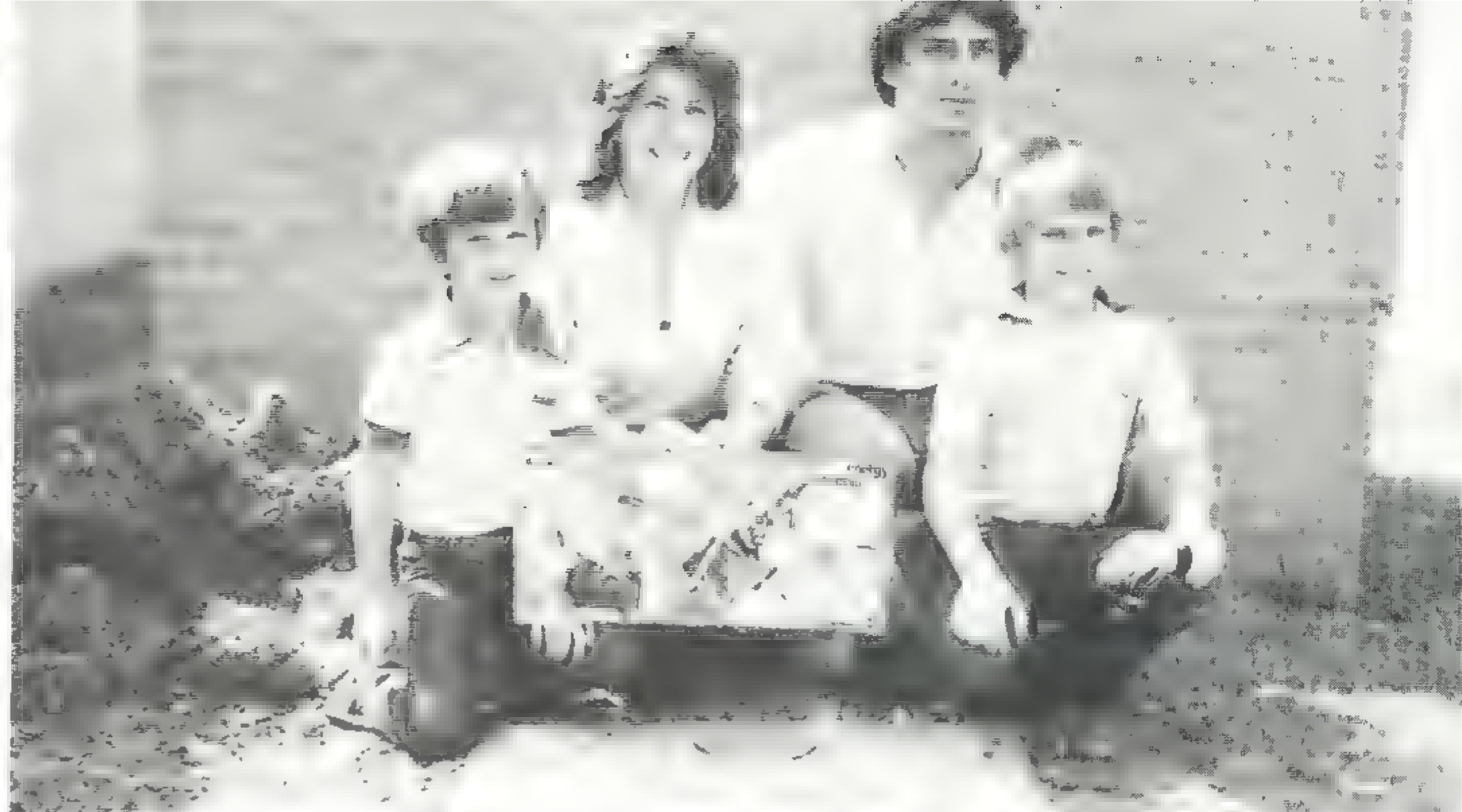
Open to high school juniors and seniors in each of GSU's five operating divisions, the contest awarded \$50 savings bonds to winners from individual high schools, who then competed for the division award. Those winners, who were eligible for a \$200 savings bond, went on to compete for the overall prize of a \$500 savings bond. However, all three Texas winners declined their awards in compliance with University Interscholastic League



Wanda Redding was among the individual school winners in the public essay contest. Miss Redding (second from right), a student at Calvert High School, accepted the award from the Calvert superintendent for GSU, Joe A. Bailey (middle). Also shown are Wanda's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Redding, and Norma Muldrew of GSU (far right).



High school seniors from the Beaumont Division place items in a time capsule, while second-graders observe.



A group of Lake Charles Division students prepare to place some items in a special time capsule. They are (left to right) Jamie Smith, a second-grader at Dolby Elementary; Mary Cardone, a student at Barbe High School and mistress-of-ceremonies for the American Energy Week event; Terry Falgout, a student at LaGrange High; and Mike Johnbloed, a second-grader at Nelson Elementary.

rules. They were Jim Johnson of Colmesneil, the Beaumont Division winner, Western Division winner Stephen Springer and Port Arthur Division winner Rhonda Busby. No such rules forbade Louisiana winners from accepting such awards. System-wide winner Connie Corripio of University Laboratory School in Baton Rouge was the overall winner for all five divisions and received a \$500 savings bond.

Children of GSU employees competed in a separate contest. Grand-prize winner Leslie Bodden won a \$500 savings bond. She is the daughter of Doris Bodden, a senior stenographer in Baton Rouge Division customer accounting. Employees' children who were division winners of \$200 savings bonds were Miss Bodden;

Grady Fuselier, the son of Virgil Fuselier, supervisor of Consumer Services in the Lafayette office; Cary Clark, whose father is Tom Clark, supervisor of Port Arthur Division Consumer Services; and Rob Draper, the son of Dr. Linn Draper, vice president for nuclear technology.

In the Lake Charles and Beaumont divisions, high school seniors who were leaders in their schools were asked to select items, including newspaper and magazine articles, that would reflect the current energy situation and place them in a time capsule. Second-graders were then charged with the responsibility of opening the time capsule in 10 years, when they are seniors, to compare the two periods of time.



Beaumont Division essay contest winner Jim Johnson of Colmesneil (center) accepts a certificate from Beaumont Division Vice President Arden Loughmiller (left) and Robert Sheffield, superintendent for the Northern District of the Beaumont Division.



Rob Draper, Beaumont Division employees' contest winner, poses with his father, Dr. Linn Draper, and his mother, Debby Draper.

SERVICE AWARDS

40
years



Earl H. Garner
Plant Production
Toledo Bend

30
years



Joseph H. Angelle
Electric T&D
Lafayette



Wilfred Broussard
Consumer Services
Lake Charles



Harold A. Dubuisson
Plant Production
Neches Station



Ward B. Nusom
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Claiborne F. Russum
Electric T&D
Beaumont



James S. Turner
Public Affairs
Beaumont



Joe D. Brown
Fossil Projects
Nelson Coal Plant

20
years



Curtis C. LeBlanc
Division Accounting
Port Arthur



Arden Loughmiller
Executive Department
Beaumont



Joseph J. Gresko
Electric T&D
Lafayette

10
years



Donna G. Derise
Division Accounting
Orange



Donny R. Elliot
Electric T&D
Gonzales



Herman D. Leasure
Electric T&D
Beaumont



Ann B. O'Neill
Human Resources
Beaumont



E. H. Schneider Jr.
Plant Production
Willow Glen



Dr. Robert Kemble (left), president of Lamar University, accepts a \$7,800 grant from GSU Board Chairman Don Crawford.

Teachers to Go to School

by Sharon Englade

Fifty Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana high school teachers will spend about three weeks this July becoming informed about energy and its relation to society — thanks to more than \$20,000 in grants from Gulf States.

The Institutes of Energy Education will be held for the second year at Lamar University in Beaumont July 13 through 31 and at McNeese State University in Lake Charles for the first time July 13 through 28.

Board Chairman Don Crawford presented a \$7,800 grant to Dr. Robert Kemble, president of Lamar, on Feb. 11, the same date W. R. Richard, vice president of the Lake Charles Division handed a \$15,000 award to McNeese president, Dr. Jack Doland.

The grants underwrite the personnel, participant and instructional costs of the institutes as well as providing funds for field trips to energy-producing facilities in the two states, according to Ed Kasper, consumer affairs coordinator in Beaumont.

In addition to science and social studies teachers, this year home economics instructors will be invited to participate in the seminar at Lamar, he said. The grants will enable 25 teachers to attend the programs at each university

where those completing the course successfully will receive six semester hours of graduate credit in education.

Guest lecturers from the fields of energy, environment and economics will participate in the institutes.

Kasper said the teachers attending the Lamar institute will make one overnight bus tour and several shorter trips. Similar programs are being planned for the McNeese seminar, although details have not been completed, he said.

The longest trip will start with a visit to GSU's wind generator on Bolivar peninsula, after which the teachers will travel to Bay City where a consortium of utility companies — Houston Power & Light, Central Power & Light, San Antonio Public Service and the city of Austin — operate the South Texas Nuclear Project, he said.

After the group spends the night in Victoria, it will move on to the Live Oak area where uranium is being mined, Kasper said.

Shorter trips will be made to the Texaco oil fields in Sour Lake, the Big Brown lignite plant and field near Fairfield, a geothermal well near Lake Charles, the Nelson No. 6 unit coal-fired

plant under construction by GSU in Louisiana, the Sabine Power Station in Bridge City and "scooter van" trips to Gladys City, the recreation of a Texas oil boom town near Lamar, according to Kasper.

The consumer affairs coordinator said he is attempting to make arrangements for the McNeese teachers to visit an off-shore drilling rig.

Kasper said Gulf States began funding the energy institutes because of the success of three-day energy seminars held at the University of Texas. He said those who participated in the institutes there felt the need for expanded curricula.

"We need more," he said the teachers told him.

Gulf States contacted Lamar and the first institute was conducted on the Beaumont campus last summer and the feedback was all favorable, he said.

Those who participated in the first seminar wrote papers on methods to "infuse" what they had learned into the existing curriculum, he said.

Those teachers have become resource people, Kasper said, and "sing the same song we're singing. Energy isn't free anymore."

Miss Arline weds Beaumont employee

Lynette Michell Arline and James Douglas Moore Jr., a Gulf Stater, were recently married at Scott Olive Baptist Church in Beaumont.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Arline of Beaumont. Arline is in the building services department in the Beaumont main office.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Douglas Moore Sr., also of Beaumont. The young man is also in the building services department. Both of the newlyweds attend Lamar University.



Port Arthur hosts tourney

The Port Arthur Division hosted its 1981 Hackers Invitational Golf Tournament in an Orange park on March 14.

According to *Plain Talks* Correspondent Rose Reeves, 32 hackers participated in the event, which was held in accordance with "Florida Scramble" rules.

Winning teams included Gerald Bailey, Phil LaLonde, D. W. Bescher and Greg Hutchings, first place; Jim Fernandez, Robert Callaway, Arden Loughmiller and Mike Hollier, second place; Kent Girouard, Mike Frederick, Craig Lee and Arnold Jones, third place; and D. P. Lyons, Lee Terro, Mitch English and L. C. Boudreaux, fourth place. Rufus Mier and Ted Meinscher received "closest-to-the-hole" honors.

Participants are shown in the accompanying picture.



Thompson given farewell party

Yvonne Thompson, former Lake Charles Division administrative accountant, was honored with a going-away party recently as she prepared to transfer to the Baton Rouge Division.

Miss Thompson will be getting married soon, too.

Co-workers gave her a crock pot and a cake, which was made by Marie Prejean.

Miss Thompson is shown at the left, along with L. J. Menard and Mrs. Prejean.



Employee's son wins awards

Bill Plant, the 11-year-old son of Western Division employee Roberta Plant, recently placed in two different math and science competitions.

The youth won first place in an applied science competition at the Huntsville Science Fair and second place in a number sense competition for fifth-graders at Scott Johnson Elementary School.

Plant's mother is a consumer service representative in Conroe.

The youngster has 6-year-old twin brothers, Barton and Brent.

Navasota senior receives awards

Dean Dickschat, a Navasota High School senior, walked away with all the honors during a recent Future Farmers of America (FFA) banquet at the school.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Dickschat received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Grimes County Go-Texan Committee, a \$50 savings bond recognizing the outstanding FFA member and was named recipient of the Star Chapter Farmer Award.

The young man's mother, Betty, is a customer contact clerk in the Navasota local office.

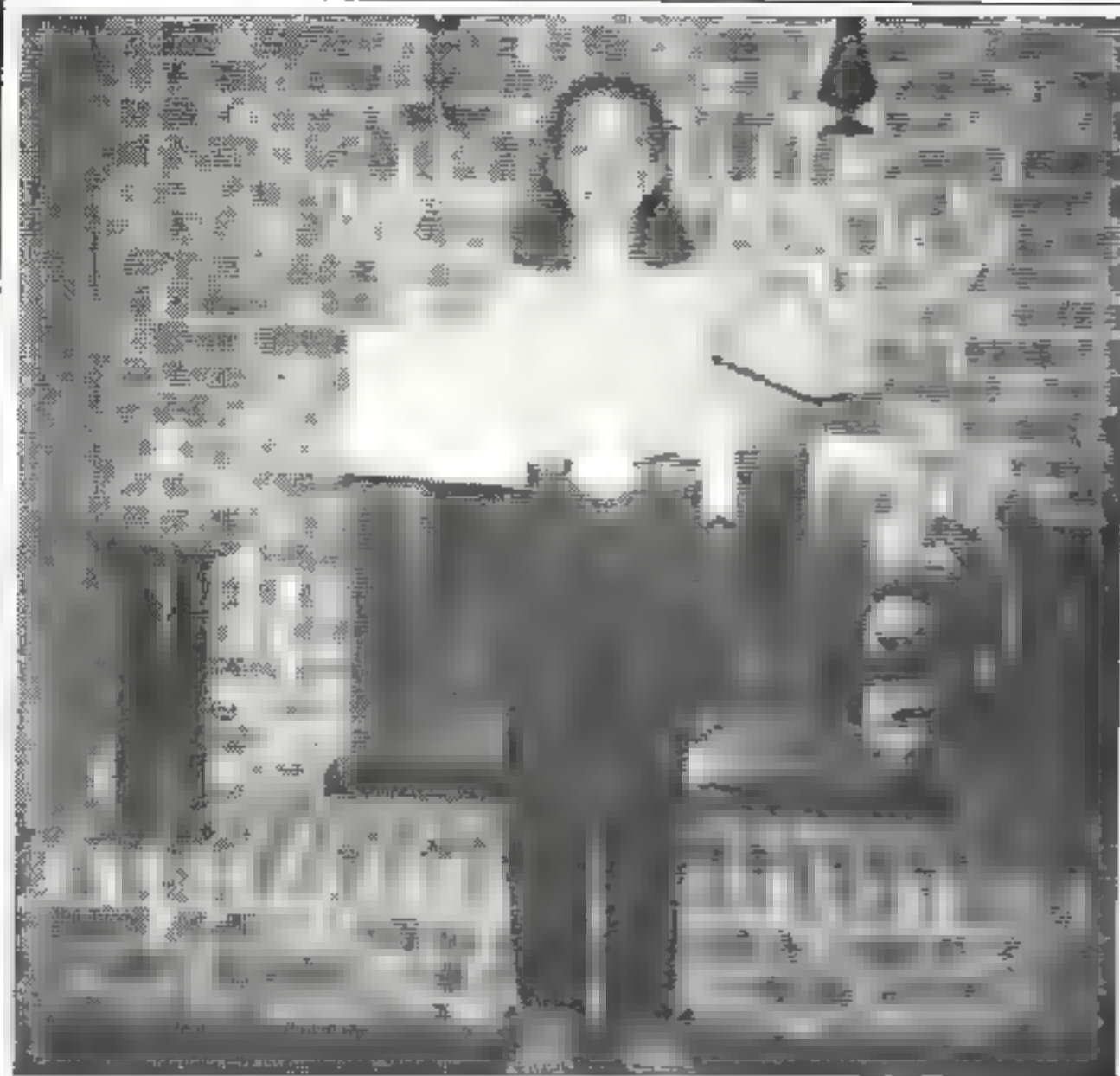


Shown in the picture with young Dickschat is Eddie Eppler, chairman of the Grimes County Go-Texan Committee.

Schwabs observe 50th anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Clement Schwab recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary during a reception in the home of their daughter, Mrs. Barry (Marguerite) Varnado of Baton Rouge.

Schwab is a Gulf States retiree from the Baton Rouge Division.



Navasota girl places in contest

Elizabeth Sandidge, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sandidge of Navasota, was recently awarded a certificate and honorable mention ribbon for artwork she submitted in the Republic of Texas art contest.

She is a fourth-grader at Navasota Intermediate School.

The youth's father is district superintendent in Navasota.



Safety dinner held in Beaumont

Beaumont district employees gathered at the Neches Station clubhouse recently for a barbecue dinner commemorating a recent safety record.

As of Christmas Day, 1980, district employees had worked six months without a lost-time accident, reported Gerald Bailey, safety representative.

Entertainment during the event was provided by Louis Borque and His Gully Jumpers. Members of the group are Sy Krebs, Borque, Dale Hare and Herb Hidalgo. All but Hidalgo are GSU employees.

Co-workers honor Robert Charles

Co-workers in Lake Charles honored Robert Charles, garage mechanic, with a barbecue dinner upon his retirement from the company on Nov. 1.

Charles began work with GSU as a laborer on Aug. 27, 1948.



In the picture, Howard Mack, operating superintendent (at right), presents a cash gift to Charles.

Airport district honors Faulk

Joseph L. Faulk, Jennings utility foreman, was recently honored by Airport District No. 1 of Jefferson Davis Parish for his volunteer efforts for the Jennings airport.



The public body presented Faulk with a plaque and read a resolution praising him for volunteering "his time, effort and equipment, expecting no compensation other than the knowledge that his labor would promote the Jennings airport and its operation."



Party given upon promotion

Stewart Mooseman, who was recently promoted to electrical foreman for Nelson 6 coal plant, was honored at a going-away party given by Sabine Station electricians Feb. 7.

Mooseman was given a Safety Fair hardhat signed by all the electricians.

He is pictured with Glenda Dorman, mechanic's helper-electrical, and the "good luck" cake baked for the celebration.



Broussard retires in Lafayette

Ralph J. Broussard, Lafayette utility foreman, was honored at a retirement party Feb. 20.

He and Mrs. Broussard are pictured with other family members.

Broussard was given a watch and Mrs. Broussard was given a small jewelry box, reports *Plain Talks* correspondent Helert Kennedy.

ON THE MOVE

Aaron, Vickie W., Baton Rouge, to supervisor-consumer credit, Division Accounting

Barnett, Susan R., Beaumont, to section head, Office Services

Basinger, Ronnie I., Port Arthur, to engineering helper, Plant Production

Bello, James W., Baton Rouge, to materials coordinator, System Operations

Blair, Richard A., Beaumont, to director-planning systems, Computer Applications

Brown, Curtis A., Nelson Coal Plant, to shift supervisor, Plant Production

Brown, Myron C., Nelson Coal Plant, to coordinator-accounting & administration, Plant Production

Browne, Richard L., Sabine Station, to electrical maintenance foreman, Plant Production

Cappadonna, Michael T., Beaumont, to senior accountant, System Production

Clements, Donald M., Beaumont, to general attorney, Legal Services

Cormier, Carlton R., Nelson Coal Plant, to test PMS coordinator, System Production

Cormier, Michael J., Lake Charles, to substation mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D

Cunningham, Cheryl Y., Beaumont, to secretary-executive, Computer Applications

Deason, Michael E., Baton Rouge, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D

Duffel, Albert J., Beaumont, accountant, formerly of Division Accounting to T&D Operations

Duplant, Craig N., Port Arthur, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D

Floyd, Rand L., Beaumont, to utility man, Electric T&D

Fontenot, Gerard L., Nelson Station, to control operations foreman, Plant Production

Fontenot, Kenneth J., Lake Charles, to stores truck-driver, Electric T&D

Goth, Thomas G., Beaumont, to senior accountant, Accounting Services

Graham, Clinton B., River Bend Site, to lead pre-operation engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group

Guerico, Joseph S., formerly of Louisiana Station, to supervisor-contract crews, Plant Production, Willow Glen Station

Hebert, Mervin J., Port Arthur, to substation mechanic-2nd class, Electric T&D

Hebert, Warren H., Jr., Lafayette, to garage mechanic-3rd class, Electric T&D

Helmick, Randall W., River Bend Site, to construction supervisor, River Bend Nuclear Group

Hollomon, Jim S., Beaumont, to inventory analyst, Materials Management

Howard, Irwin G., Louisiana Station, to electrician-2nd class, Plant Production

Jarreau, Roland J., Baton Rouge, to utility foreman, T&D Substation

Kelly, Ernest C., Denham Springs, to assistant general line foreman, T&D Line

Kindell, Robert N. II, Port Arthur, to equipment operator, Plant Production

King, Randall D., formerly of Beaumont System, to accountant, Sabine Station

Koles, John S., Denham Springs, to utility foreman, T&D Line

Kopp, Edward C., Louisiana Station, to planning coordinator, Plant Production

Lang, Willis T., Beaumont, to toolroom foreman, T&D Line

Lanham, Charles L., Conroe, to utility man, Electric T&D

Lawrence, Evelyn R., Beaumont, to personnel records clerk, Human Resources

LeBouef, Stanley J., Orange, to distribution supervisor, T&D Operations

Lee, Robert C., Port Arthur, to senior engineering assistant, Electric T&D

Lightfoot, Roy L., Jr., Beaumont, to helper, T&D/Helper Crews

Locke, Billy R., formerly of Nelson Station, supervisor-accounting & administration, to Plant Production, Nelson Coal Plant

Lovett, Michael W., Beaumont, to operator's helper, Plant Production

Mangham, Marolon G., Willow Glen Station, to coordinator-accounting & administration, Plant Production

Melton, Alan B., Beaumont, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D

Melville, Robin C., formerly of Baton Rouge, accountant, to River Bend Site, Accounting Services

Moore, James D., Jr., Beaumont, to operator's helper, Plant Production

Moosman, Stewart K., formerly of Sabine Station, electrical maintenance foreman, to Nelson Coal Plant, Plant Production

Murphy, Thomas G., formerly of River Bend Site, to supervisor-cost, Beaumont River Bend Nuclear Group

Myers, Brenda F., Lafayette, to section head, Division Accounting

Newman, Robert C., Baton Rouge, to engineering helper, Electric T&D

Null, Deborah P., Beaumont, to supervisor-tax research & state taxes, Beaumont Tax & Accounting Research

Nunez, Kurt L., Port Arthur, to apprentice-T&D Dept.

Percie, Malcolm P., formerly of Denham Springs, assistant general line foreman, to Baton Rouge T&D Line

Perio, Francis D., formerly of Orange, accountant, to Beaumont Division Accounting

Reed, William J., Beaumont, to director-nuclear licensing, River Bend Nuclear Group

Sandefur, Morris E., formerly of Sabine Site, to construction specialist-electrical, Fossil Projects, Nelson Coal Site

Shankle, Ellis P., River Bend Site, to control operating foreman, River Bend Nuclear Group

Sirmons, Calvin W., Woodville, to lineman-4th class, Electric T&D

Smiles, Raymond Jr., Louisiana Station, to turbine engineer, Plant Production

Smith, Millard K., Baton Rouge, to general line foreman, T&D Line

Stafford, Huey D., Denham Springs, to line foreman, T&D Line

Stevens, Shelton W., Beaumont, to lineman-3rd class, Electric T&D

Thibodeaux, Byron K., River Bend Site, to systems engineer, River Bend Nuclear Group

Von Netzer, Franz C., Beaumont, to boiler mechanical coordinator, System Production

Walker, Bryan J., Louisiana Station, to turbine-water plant operator, Plant Production

Walker, Nolan E., Beaumont, to supervisor-mechanical design engineering, Power Plant Engineering & Design

Walker, Ottie D., Beaumont, to electrician-1st class, Plant Production

Weir, Terry L., Neches Station, to coordinator-accounting & administration, Plant Production

Whaley, Robert R., Beaumont, to supervisor-invoice processing, Accounting Services

Will, David E., Beaumont, to utility worker II, Plant Production

Willis, Richard, Beaumont, to garage foreman, T&D Garage

Wilson, Carrol R., Baton Rouge, to substation foreman, T&D Substation

Zachary, Vicki A., Louisiana Station, to coordinator-accounting & administration, Plant Production

Mary Jordan

How Does Your Garden Grow?

Years ago, Mary Jordan worked in the old Liberty GSU office and belonged to the city's Camellia Club, although she had no yard of her own.

But the Hardin County native, now a 24-year GSU veteran who is currently division accounting coordinator, had a dream back there in Liberty as she watched her friends' gardens grow: One day she would have her own yard full of flowers with a gazebo nestled in among the blossoms.

Today, she and husband Doug, a locomotive engineer for Sante Fe Railroads, have built that dream north of Silsbee.

The Jordans moved into their present home in February 1973 and Mary said she gave her husband a "deadline" for her gazebo.

"That had been my dream . . ." she said. "I gave Doug 10 years to build and he couldn't stand it." So Doug and a carpenter friend from Grayburg built the structure, contracting only the foundation.

Mary commutes the 25 miles into Beaumont each working day, but she and Doug make a practice of rising a little earlier than necessary these spring mornings and enjoying breakfast or a cup of coffee, surveying their domain from the long-awaited gazebo.

The greenery, the flowers and the martins playing in the bird-bath each morning put her in a "better frame of mind" for the workday ahead, Mary said.

In season, the Jordan yard is a wash of color from almost 500 tulips that spent their lives as bulbs in the couple's refrigerator. This year's dry January prevented many from blooming, however. Sometimes, Mary said, she is able to farm out a few bulbs to neighbors with a little room in their refrigerators. They are usually

refrigerated from September until about mid-December.

The tulips are of all different colors, but she reserves the red ones for the area around the gazebo.

Mary orders all new bulbs each August and, except for the storage problem, she said tulips are no trouble. "You put them out and, if you have enough rain, you can forget them 'til they bloom," she reported.

Her yard is her "main interest," she said, and she and Doug spend most weekends, except in winter, keeping it fit and trim.

"Doug's very active. We have two lawnmowers exactly alike," Mary said, "and we work in the yard together."

Tulips are not the only splash of color in the Jordan yard. Among other things, they grow azaleas, camellias and caladiums as well as tending to a 20-by-30-foot vegetable garden Doug and his sister planted.

According to Mary, the azaleas must be cut just as soon as they stop blooming. Feed them, she

said, and six weeks later, feed them again. She also advises using a fertilizer called cygon around the camellias.

Once the brief glory of the tulips has faded, the Jordans put out the caladiums, planting some around the gazebo and placing others in pots so they can be moved about the yard. The caladium bulbs can be dug up and replanted for about three years, Mary said.

In her present capacity as division accounting coordinator, Mary travels around to 33 offices, including the new one in Oak Ridge Plaza.

Before her new job was created last year, she spent nine years traveling for the Beaumont Division doing relief work and training customer accounting employees.

In her new job, Mary does a lot of moving about, mostly one-day jaunts to the various offices. Trips to the Baton Rouge Division, however, mean two or three days.

Liking to drive is absolutely essential, she said.



Device measures air pollution

An instrument that uses two laser beams to measure air pollutants over wide areas and in three dimensions — which was not previously possible — has been successfully field-tested under funding provided by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI).

Mounted in a truck trailer, the device — dubbed the differential absorption lidar (DIAL) — sweeps beams of ultraviolet laser light across a plume of emissions from a stack and measures the concentrations of gases present. It can be used to survey an area ranging as far as two miles from an emission source to determine where the pollutants come in contact with the ground.

Lidar, which stands for light direction and ranging (as opposed to radio direction and ranging — radar), operates by sending out laser pulses and measuring those bounced back. The DIAL system was developed for EPRI by SRI International of Menlo Park, Calif. SRI, formerly Stanford Research Institute, performs contract research and consulting for businesses and governments worldwide.

Gases, such as sulfur and nitrogen dioxides, are given off when fossil fuels are burned — such as in power plants that use the heat energy stored in coal or oil — as a fuel to generate electricity. In an effort to improve air quality, strict limits have been set on the emission of such gases. But it has been difficult to determine how plumes of gases disperse after leaving the tall stacks now commonly used.

An SRI team tested the DIAL system last year at Kincaid Generating Station of Commonwealth Edison Company, near Springfield, Ill. James Hawley, DIAL program manager at SRI, called the test “very successful.” Readings from the instruments were checked against data

available from the plant and, Hawley said, “We were able to detect the sulphur dioxide emanating from the plant in approximate agreement with what we had expected.”

Dr. Glenn Hilst, the EPRI manager in charge of the project, says the instrument “will be very valuable in determining the behavior of plumes and the resultant dilution of pollutants from tall stacks.” He estimates that in one hour of operation the new instrument collects data equivalent to that gathered by 1,000 ground-based air-sampling stations.

People, lights combine to heat Idaho building

The problem: What kind of energy should be used to heat a large new office building efficiently?

The answer: Mostly just warm bodies.

People and lights combine to warm the three-story, 1,500 occupant U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) contractor building at Idaho Falls, Idaho. A heat pump recaptures the energy from the people and lights and a water storage system keeps it until it is needed to heat or cool the building.

The building's 1,500 occupants — working at their desks during an eight-hour work shift — produce as much heat as 31 gallons of heating oil. Combined with heat from high-efficiency, high-pressure sodium lamps, that is all the building normally requires.

No backup heat is needed until the outside temperature reaches six below zero. A backup boiler is available to preheat the building after a long weekend or in extreme cold.

The building's architects, Flatow, Moore, Bryan and Associates of Albuquerque, New Mexico, took special pains to contain the free heat. The building

has double-pane glass windows, the roof is double insulated and walls have six-inch fiberglass and two-inch rigid insulation.

Warmth generated during working hours by the office workers and lights goes into a 200,000-gallon water tank. In summer, the water is used for cooling. The system will allow for participation in economical “time of day” billing that encourages off-peak use of electricity. Although local utilities do not yet bill that way, the DOE reports that indications are good that they will adopt such a policy in the future.

The building brings together under one roof employees who previously were scattered in lease buildings throughout Idaho Falls or who rode buses to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. Most are EG&G Idaho and Exxon Nuclear Idaho Company employees.

Study reveals false claims

Transient voltage surge suppressors — devices designed to protect sensitive equipment such as computers from sudden surges or “spikes” of electricity — do not save energy, concludes a study by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI).

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which began investigating the energy-saving claims of surge suppressor manufacturers last April, had been delaying its issuance of a ruling on the manufacturers' advertising claims pending the release of the EPRI study. However, both the EPRI results and the FTC investigation appear to be ending anti-climactically as manufacturers who were touting the devices as energy savers seem to have either gone out of business or have dropped the energy-saving claims as a result of years of bad publicity and a string of court injunctions from over 10 states.

'Still a part of Gulf States'

For many Gulf Staters, retirement signaled a fresh start in their lives — not the ending to the most exciting part, as some pessimists would have one believe.

And in Beaumont on April 24, 125 GSU retirees proved that by their enthusiastic participation in the third meeting of the new Beaumont Division chapter of the Sideliners Club. While having a good time was important to those present, they obviously attended for more substantial reasons, too.

As chapter President Victor Gayle pointed out, "We're still a part of GSU, even though some of us may have gone back to work at other jobs. And we need to know what is going on at Gulf States."

The silver-haired, distinguished-looking Gayle, who retired from Gulf States in 1968, is now a savings counselor for Jefferson Savings and Loan Association in Beaumont.

First and foremost, however, he is a Gulf Stater who remains vitally interested in the affairs of the company. Others at the noon session echoed that sentiment to this writer, indicating that until the Sideliners Club was formed, *Plain Talks* and *Newsbreaker* were practically their only sources of information about the company.

But Board Chairman Don Crawford began rectifying that situation by bringing the 125 club members up to date on company operations, the financial outlook and developments in the areas of rates and power plant construction, among other topics.

Just as retirees still feel a part of the company, GSU officials realize that those who have devoted long years of service to Gulf States continue to play an important part in representing the company image to the public.

Much as active employees are accosted by other customers about their electric bills, retirees are also called upon to explain or defend Gulf States' activities. In that role, they perform an important public relations function.

But retirees have never been forgotten by the company — they simply may not have received as much up-to-date information as they would have liked.

Since September 1976, Gulf States has hosted pre-retirement orientation sessions for employees nearing retirement. The 2½ day sessions are designed to help employees make the transition from employed to retired by providing information on such topics as health requirements, social security, Medicare, Medicaid, GSU benefits, wills, property and estate taxes and travel opportunities. An expert from each area — a lawyer, for instance — addresses a particular topic and answers questions.

Held in the peaceful setting of The Woodlands Inn resort, the session also gives the company a chance to honor soon-to-be retirees and their spouses.

One such session was held in late April and two more are scheduled for later in 1981.

The sessions are just one way of paying out the debt for the long years of loyal service contributed by most GSU retirees.

Another effort will be the addition of a special column in *Plain Talks* — Retirees' Update — that will attempt to fill the information gap for retirees who are also interested in the activities of other retirees.

Bill Buckley was named the correspondent for the Beaumont Club, while the Port Arthur chapter has named Ruth Vaughn and Ferna DeCuir as its correspondents. The Lake Charles and Baton Rouge chapters will name correspondents later, and a retiree will be asked to represent the Western Division, which has not yet formed a Sideliners Club.

Susan Gilley

Q.
A.

How much energy does each of us use?

Each day the average American uses the energy equivalent of 16 pounds of coal, 3.6 gallons of oil, 240 cubic feet of natural gas, not to mention 3.8 and 3.5 kilowatthours of hydroelectric power and nuclear power, respectively. A baby born today, consuming power at that rate, will use the equivalent of 210 tons of coal, 2,300 barrels of oil and 6.4 million cubic feet of natural gas by the time he's 72.

